

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-12 as presented in the underlying International Application No. PCT/DE03/01176.

Please add new claims 13-24 as indicated in the listing of claims below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (new): A clutch assembly comprising:

 a clutch including a clutch lining having a springiness;
 a pressure plate configured to engage the clutch, the pressure plate being axially moveable against a force of the springiness of the lining;
 a clutch-release system;
 a release bearing;
 a pressure plate;
 a lever plate supported in a peripheral region and transmitting with leverage a release force to the pressure plate, the release force being applied by the clutch-release system to the release bearing; and
 a clutch actuator having a linear compensating spring and exerting an actuating force, the actuating force being amplified by a force of the linear compensating spring,
 wherein a spring force acts on the lever plate in a direction of the force of the springiness of the lining and, the spring force having a magnitude adapted to a magnitude of the force of the linear compensating spring.

Claim 14 (new): The clutch assembly as recited in claim 13, wherein the lever plate includes a lever diaphragm-spring system.

Claim 15 (new): The clutch assembly as recited in claim 13, wherein a bearing surface of the pressure plate includes an adjusting ring configured to compensate for wear.

Claim 16 (new): The clutch assembly as recited in claim 13, further comprising an adjusting ring acting on the peripheral region of the lever plate and configured to compensate for wear.

Claim 17 (new): The clutch assembly as recited in claim 16, further comprising a cover stop assigned to a radially inner region of the lever plate.

Claim 18 (new): The clutch assembly as recited in claim 13, further comprising an adjusting diaphragm spring assigned to the lever plate for applying the spring force.

Claim 19 (new): The clutch assembly as recited in claim 18, wherein the adjusting diaphragm spring is disposed on an outer side of the lever plate.

Claim 20 (new): The clutch assembly as recited in claim 19, further comprising a cover attachment holding a peripheral region of the adjusting diaphragm spring and a lever-plate attachment holding a radially inner region of the adjusting diaphragm spring.

Claim 21 (new): The clutch assembly as recited in claim 18, wherein the adjusting diaphragm spring is disposed on an inner side of the lever plate.

Claim 22 (new): The clutch assembly as recited in claim 21, further comprising a cover attachment holding a peripheral region of the adjusting diaphragm spring and wherein a radially inner region of the adjusting diaphragm spring rests against the lever plate.

Claim 23 (new): The clutch assembly as recited in claim 13, wherein the magnitude of the spring force acting on the lever plate is adapted to the magnitude of the force of the linear compensating spring in such a manner as to result in the actuating force being positive at the clutch actuator.

Claim 24 (new): The clutch assembly as recited in claim 13, wherein the magnitude of the spring force acting on the lever plate is adapted to the magnitude of the force of the linear compensating spring in such a manner so as to enable a large range of motion with minimal actuating force at the clutch actuator.